



295193

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: November 9, 1996
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POLREP No.: POLREP 1/Initial

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	A537
Response Authority:	CERCLA
CERCLIS No.:	MID 052 500 261
NPL Status:	No
Start Date:	November 4, 1996

Completion Date: N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category Time Critical Removal Action at an
Inactive Production Facility that
Reconditioned Industrial Electrical
Components

B. Site Description and Location

1. Site location

The J.E. Berger (JEB) site is located at 5300 Bellevue Street in Detroit, Michigan in a mixed commercial and residential area. The geographical coordinates for the site are 42 22'26.7 North latitude and 83 01'40.4" West longitude. The area of concern (AOC [5300 Bellevue Street]) is a small portion of interconnecting warehouses that were part of the Packard Automobile Plant until the late 1940's. The JEB site is bordered to the north by other warehouses in the complex, to the east by Concord Street, to the west by the Michigan Opera Theatre Technical Center (costume shop), and to the south by an adjoining warehouse and Frederick Street.

2. Site History and Description of threat

In the mid-1980's, the JEB site, known then as the Frederick Avenue PCB site, was the focus of an extensive polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) cleanup effort. The cleanup was monitored by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and was conducted voluntarily by the J.E. Berger Corporation, which was operational at that time. The voluntary cleanup focused on PCB contamination that had been identified in soils in several lots near the buildings and in sediments found in nearby storm drains. In addition, the surfaces of several contaminated streets and alleys located around the JEB building were addressed. MDNR files indicate that the exterior PCB cleanup was successfully completed in 1988.

In the process of assessing PCB-contaminated materials stored in the surrounding lots, the MDNR determined that wooden blocks that had previously comprised flooring inside the JEB building were contaminated with PCBs. In a letter to the J.E. Berger Corporation, dated March 20, 1987, MDNR suggested that J.E. Berger extend their exterior PCB cleanup activities to the interior of the building. A letter to Berger from Michigan Department of Labor (MDOL) indicates that air monitoring was conducted in the operating Berger facility to determine levels of airborne PCBs. In addition, MDNR conducted PCB air monitoring outside the J.E.B. building. No exceedence of worker safety exposure levels was found, either inside or outside the building.

MDNR records indicate that, in response to the concern of PCB contamination within the building, some pallets and drums of PCB capacitors and transformers were removed. The records also indicate that some clean-up was conducted in the building's loading docks.

The building's interior remains contaminated with PCBs. Numerous PCB laden capacitors and approximately 50 drums

also remain inside the building. Drum contents include PCB contaminated oils, flammable liquids, and roofing tars.

C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

A U.S. EPA site assessment was conducted on April 15, 1996. The inspection revealed that other businesses were operating in the interconnected warehouse spaces, that had at one time been occupied by the Berger Company.

The roof of the AOC has several gaping holes with deteriorating sheet metal/tar roof material collapsing into the building. Areas of wood block flooring have been removed and stockpiled, revealing the underlying concrete and accumulated dirt. The loading dock contains PCB contaminated debris. On the north side of the AOC, twenty-two 55-gallon steel drums are staged on pallets. Capacitors, found adjacent to the 55-gallon steel drums, were marked, "Caution; PCBs." A stairway leading to second and third floor storage and shop areas is located along the north wall.

Samples collected for PCB analysis included oil (from open topped containers), oily sludge, oil-soaked wood blocks, and wipes from oil-stained surfaces. Analytical results for 4 of 11 samples collected exceeded the regulatory limit for PCB. Analytical data indicated that areas of the JEB site were contaminated with PCBs at levels up to 840,000 parts per million (ppm).

On April 22, 1996, additional site assessment samples were collected from closed drums and wipe samples were taken for PCB analysis from the interconnecting warehouse areas. Some of these wipe samples tested positive for PCBs, however, none were above regulatory levels of concern.

Samples were collected from staged drums on the third level of the JEB building. These drums contained oil, roofing tar, and thinner; analytical results tested positive for flash.

The twenty-two staged drums, on the ground floor, were opened and several samples were collected. Contents in some of the drums tested positive for PCB and low flashpoint. Several piles of debris, mounds of wooden blocks, and bins containing capacitors were found throughout the building.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current situation

Emergency Response Cleanup Services (ERCS) mobilized to the

site on 11-4-96. Site set-up is complete and removal/disposal has begun.

2. Removal activities to date

On 10-11-96, OSC, START, MDEQ, and ERCS conducted a walk through of the site. Plans for site set up and removal were discussed.

On 10-22-96, plumbing subcontractor sealed damaged water main in the building.

On 10-25-96, electrical subcontractor prepared temporary power drop on Detroit Edison power pole.

On 11-4-96, Detroit Edison energized the temporary power drop. The garage door subcontractor serviced the overhead garage doors at the loading dock entrance; these doors are old and in a state of disrepair that may require further work or replacement alternatives. The office trailer subcontractor delivered two office trailers and a storage trailer. Ameritech connected telephone services. Plumbing subcontractor returned to complete and winterize water supply to decon area.

On 11-5-96, ERCS continues site set-up. Two rolloff boxes mobilized for PCB debris disposal. ERCS crew began clearing the loading dock of PCB debris. Electrical subcontractor returns to provide power to the trailers and provide a safe, temporary power supply to the JEB building. ERCS crew began the set up of the decon area in the office area of the building. Ameritech completes phone installation services. Detroit Edison contractor replaces bad electrical transformers on power pole.

On 11-6-96, electrical subcontractor completes the connection of electrical services. ERCS crew continues decon area preparations.

On 11-7-96, ERCS crew completes decon area preparation. First PCB debris load is transported.

On 11-8-96, PCB debris loading continues; debris loading and wood block removal in loading dock is completed. Miscellaneous small containers, capacitors, and drums are collected from the first floor and staged.

On 11-9-96, Crew begins to eliminate overhead hazards caused by hanging roofing material. Second PCB debris box is loaded. Drum staging area prepared.

B. Planned Removal Activities and Next Steps

1. Continue wood block removal throughout facility.

2. Complete removal of hanging tar-coated metal roof material from the work zone.
3. Haz-cat the contents of drums and small containers.
4. Remove debris (non-haz and hazardous) from the warehouse.
5. Decontaminate building surfaces, as necessary.
6. Confirm decontamination through analytical sampling.

C. Key Issues

None

V. COST INFORMATION

Costs as of 11-09-96.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
U.S. EPA	\$ 44,000	\$ 1,602.00	\$ 42,398.00
START	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 6,750.00
ERCS	\$400,000	\$ 31,653.47	\$368,346.53
USCG	\$ 20,000	\$ 731.00	\$ 19,269.00
	<u>\$474,000</u>	<u>\$ 37,236.47</u>	<u>\$436,763.53</u>

Percent of project funds remaining = 92%

NOTE: The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data, which the OSC must rely upon, may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

On November 7, 1996, the first load of PCB-contaminated debris was shipped to the CWM facility in Model City, New York for disposal.